

New law authorizes Jefferson Parish and the municipalities therein to add to an owner's ad valorem tax bill contempt fines, other fines, and court costs for failure to comply with a final order or judgment directing him to repair or demolish a derelict building and for failure to remedy a zoning, property maintenance, or other ordinance violation after being so ordered by a judgment or administrative adjudication hearing.

New law authorizes the governing authorities of Jefferson Parish and the municipalities therein to adopt ordinances to govern the placement of such fines and costs on the owner's tax bill. Provides that the fines and costs added to the tax bill shall be collected at the same time and in the same manner as ad valorem taxes. Provides that the fines and costs added to the tax bill shall be enforced with the same authority and be subject to the same penalties and procedures as unpaid ad valorem taxes.

New law provides that the sheriff or appropriate tax collecting entity will be paid a collection fee equal to 15% of the amount of the collected fines and costs. The collection fee shall be in addition to the other fines and costs on the tax bill.

New law provides that the parish or municipality shall be the sole and proper defendant in actions to contest the addition of such charges to the ad valorem tax bill.

New law provides that in Jefferson Parish and the municipalities therein, all final orders and judgments shall remain enforceable and executory, notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, specifically, the state law relative to nullity of unfilled claims once the property in question has been seized by the sheriff.

New law provides that, notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the parish of Jefferson may compensate the judge for Division "J" of the 24th Judicial District Court (Jefferson Parish), who handles the District Court's "environmental docket".

New law provides for severability if a provision of the Act is held invalid.

Effective upon signature of governor (July 10, 2009).

(Adds R.S. 33:1236(49)(f))